

Black-headed Gull
17 May 1998
Kettleson Hogsback A., Dickinson Co., IA
Ed Thelen
IBL 68:93

Record Number: 98-15
Classification: A-D

DOCUMENTATION

Ed Thelen (field report), 15362 250th Ave., Spirit Lake 51360
Ed Thelen (documentation), requested and rec'd 1 Sep 1998

[11/27/98]

REFERENCES

Field Reports: IBL 68:93
Records Committee: IBL 69:89

VOTE: 5 A-D, 2 NA

NA, I presume this record is correct, but too little information is provided on this accidental species to evaluate it--a full documentation is warranted here. In cases like this where presumably correct records are accompanied by inadequate support, I wonder if it would be appropriate to request additional information.

NA, The identification was probably correct, but in my opinion a more thorough description than "brown head, dark underwings" is needed for acceptance of this casual species.

A-D, Details brief but only adult gull with brown head.

A-D, Anywhere other than this know location would be an NA without more details. However, brown head and dark underwings should be sufficient.

A-D, Precedent and experience carry the day for minimal details. "Brown head" kept me from voting against.

A-D, Although the brown head and dark underwings would appear to be diagnostic, a full documentation would have been useful, even though this species has been seen at this location in preceding years.

A-D, Description extremely brief, but adequate. More details on size of bird etc would be helpful. Still a rare bird in Iowa!

RE-VOTE (by mail): 7 A-D

A-D, Additional information is conclusive.

A-D, Documentation helpful, especially for the future.

A-D, Although much delayed and prompted, the details provided (brown head, dark underwing, white triangle on upper wing) are diagnostic, and I have no reason to believe that they were not seen.

A-D, Full doc addresses deficiencies in original info submitted.

Season: Spring Year: 1998Name and address
(print or type) ED THELEN 15362 250th Ave98-15

Other observers (name, city):

SPIRIT LAKE, IA 51360

Use first few lines to give weather and habitat conditions. Use line(s) below species data to give additional details, if needed. Mail to:

~~F. H. Kent, 811 Richards St., Iowa City IA 52241~~

by 1 Mar, 1 Jun, 1 Aug, or 1 Dec.

use initials of obsv. on species line

SPECIES	NO.	DATE	LOCATION - COMMENT - OTHER OBSERVERS
✓ Common Loon	2	5-25	Immatures on Spirit Lake
✓ Eared Grebe	4	4-22	West Okoboji
✓ Western Grebe	1	4-22	West Okoboji
✓ Cattle Egret	4	4-20	Near Grover's Lake - Dickinson County
✓ Sandhill Crane	3	3-24	Flew over Spirit Lake
✓ American Avocet	2	5-02	SWAN PEN - Dickinson County
✓ Willet	11	5-06	West Okoboji
✓ Hudsonian Godwit	9	5-15	Slough NORTH of Jemmeson in Dickinson County
✓ Wilson's Phalarope	7	5-15	Slough NORTH of Jemmeson in Dickinson County
✓ BLACK-headed Gull	1	5-17	Adult in alternate plumage. Brown head, dark underwings - It flew into SWAN PEN from the east and rested on the island with some ring-bills and Franklins.
✓ Glaucous Gull	1	3-28	Marble Lake - Large pure white gull with bi-colored bill. Probably second WINTER bird. Will send photo when developed.
✓ Long-eared owl	1	3-31	IN my yard
✓ Saw-whet owl	3	3-15	MOOREHEAD State Park
✓ Prothonotary Warbler	2	5-17	Male and female at Ketterson Hogs Back near Marble Lake Acc
✓ Hooded Warbler	1	5-21	Male at ^{Ketterson} HOGS BACK - Marble Lake
✓ Great-tail Grackle	2	5-20	2 females observed w/ nesting material in bill at Grover's Lake - Dickinson
✓ Common Redpoll	5	3-24	

DOCUMENTATION FORM
For Extraordinary Bird Sightings in Iowa

98-15

What species? Common Blackheaded Gull How many? 1

Location? SWAN PEN - Dickinson County

Type of Habitat? Wetland - open water Not many emergents island

When? date(s): 5-17-98 time: 8:00 am to 8:15 pm

Who? your name and address: Ed Thelen 15362 250th Ave

Others with you: Spirit Lake IA 51360

Others before or after you: _____

Describe the bird(s) including only what you observed. Include size, shape, details of all parts (bill, eye, head, neck, back, wing, tail, throat, breast, belly, undertail, legs, feet). Also mention voice and behavior.

Observed an adult black-headed gull fly into the swan pen from the east. It was in alternate plumage and was with several Franklin gulls.

It was somewhat larger than the Franklin gull which was apparent when it came to rest on an island and landed next to a Franklin gull. Also apparent was its brown hood. While it was flying I noted the white triangular marks on the upper wing (similar to a Bonaparte), darker underwings and a very light mantle. The brown hood covered the top of the head, forehead and side. The nape was white. It rested for several minutes then flew to the north.

Similar species; how eliminated:

Bonapartes Gull - size and color of hood
Franklins - color of hood, wing markings (upper and lower)

Did any one disagree or have reservations about the identification? NO

If yes, explain:

Viewing conditions: give lighting, distance (how measured), optical equipment.

Good - 100-150 yds - (est.)

Viewed w/ Binoculars (8.5x44) while flying and

Previous experience with species and similar ones:

When landed w/ scope (Discovery) (20-30x)
Have seen BH Gull in same area in past years

References and persons consulted before writing description: NONE

How long before field notes made? _____ this form completed? 8-9-98

Send completed form to Field Reports or CBC editor (address on back cover of Iowa Bird Life).